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SERVICE NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The NEWS is intended to inform staff members of developments within the Service and is not for distribution to others.

Benton, Miss Mildred

March 1, 1940

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YOUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAYS --

With this issue SERVICE NEWS goes on a new and regular schedule. Publication dates will be the first and fifteenth of each month at Washington, which means the NEWS will reach most field offices around the third and eighteenth of each month. It is the hope of Your Washington Correspondent that putting SERVICE NEWS on a regular schedule will be one of several steps to make it thrive and indirectly, at least, help do away with any subject-matter-anaemia from which the little sheet may have suffered in the past.

SERVICE NEWS has a definite niche to fill in our organization. The sheet came into existence because there was a definite need -- yes, a demand -- for it. The trouble has been that while everyone wanted SERVICE NEWS few of our personnel were willing to do anything about putting life into its contents. "We want SERVICE NEWS, but don't ask us for anything to go into it," seemed to be the unspoken reaction when Your Correspondent undertook to gather pertinent, informative material, which would be of interest to all personnel. That's not a beef; it's a simple fact.

Well, enough of that. The point that we're getting around to is that, admitting its past weaknesses, SERVICE NEWS is going to forget the past and start out with the current issue determined to bring to all personnel a cross section of interesting, informative material from the Washington and field offices. To this end Your Washington Correspondent hopes that field offices will study the subject matter of the NEWS and send in items that should be passed along to all personnel of the Service.

THE OPEN FORUM

What is hoped will be a most interesting regular feature of SERVICE NEWS is an open forum page. We will welcome contributions for this page. Make them spirited, controversial, filled with ideas. Certainly every office has some pet ideas that should be aired; tips that should be made available to all of us. All contributions for The Open Forum Page should be mailed to the Division of Information, Washington. They should be signed, but your name will not be used if so requested.

You may write for The Open Forum Page with strict impunity. Say what you want, raise those questions that have been bothering you; advance ideas that will make for more efficient results in any field -- technical, clerical, administrative. The field is open; select your own subject and cut loose.

There are hundreds of subjects and ideas. For instance, Your Washington Correspondent interviewed Confucius several days ago. Confucius, he say, "Five hundred complete farm plans in the filing cabinet save not near so much soil as one farm plan in operation. What you think?"

CHIEF TO BROADCAST ON "AMERICA'S TOWN MEETING OF THE AIR"

On March 7 at 9:30 p.m., E.S.T., America's Town Meeting of the Air will be devoted to a discussion on "What should America do for the Joads?" H. H. Bennett will tell the story of the soil conservation work that has been done and must be continued in the Dust Bowl.

There will be three other participants in the program. Rexford Guy Tugwell, formerly Under Secretary of Agriculture, will discuss the subject fundamentally, giving a picture of the Dust Bowl problem and describing the work that the Government tried to do with the migrant workers in California while he was Director of the Resettlement Administration.

Philip Bancroft will speak as a representative of the Associated Farmers of California. Carey McWilliams, chief of the division of immigration and housing of the State of California, will give his interpretation of the California migrant problem and explain what he feels should be done to help solve it.

The town meetings are broadcast from the Town Hall in New York each Thursday evening from 9:30 to 10:30, E.S.T., over WJZ and the coast-to-coast blue network of the NBC. The program itself is divided into two parts; the first half is given over to prepared addresses of the speakers, the second, to questions from the floor.

STATUS OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1941

The President's annual budget message to Congress included recommendations for appropriations for the entire Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$877,230,704. Of this total the following sums were recommended for various items under which the Soil Conservation Service conducts its activities:

Soil Conservation Service regular appropriation	\$20,195,128
Land Utilization total appropriation	
for Department	1,102,500
Water Facilities total appropriation	
for Department	500,000
Cooperative Farm Forestry total appropriation for Department	300,000

As the act passed the House, the only change made in the estimates for the SCS appropriation was the elimination of the amount for administrative promotions specifically allowed by the Bureau of the Budget for that purpose. (This does not mean, however, that there will be no funds available for administrative promotions during 1941. It simply means that the funds to put into effect the formula which the Bureau of the Budget had recommended to cover administrative promotions will not be available. The action, however, does not make any change in present policies with respect to administrative promotions.)

The appropriation for LU was increased over the Budget estimate by one million dollars. The item for water facilities was completely eliminated on the recommendation of the Appropriations Committee that this item, if provided for, should be administered by the Reclamation Service. The appropriation for cooperative farm forestry was consolidated with two other items in the Appropriations Act. The total of these three items as submitted by the President was \$478,000; the amount approved by the House after consolidation was \$400,000. The present interpretation of the Department is that funds for farm forestry and forest farming projects will be reduced from \$175,000 available during the current year to \$150,000 through this action.

It may be of interest to note that several amendments were introduced on the floor of the House to increase the SCS regular appropriation. One amendment to increase the appropriation by \$3,000,000 to provide for the additional work with the soil conservation districts was voted down by a vote of 109 to 105.

Hearings before the Senate Committee are under way this week. The field will be advised as soon as definite information is available concerning the Senate action.

CONSERVATION IS PROFITABLE,
SAYS DR. BENNETT

In addressing the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers at Birmingham, Ala., on February 7, H. H. Bennett estimated that a dividend of fifty dollars per acre would accrue over a ten-year period to each farmer practicing soil conservation.

Based on this estimate, Dr. Bennett predicted that "the 20 million acres in this country that have now been treated for soil and water conservation should produce a dividend of at least a billion dollars to the farmers and to the country within the next decade."

Aside from the increased land values resulting from conservation farming, the Chief pointed out that greater human security results where soil and water are effectively conserved. "We have more purchasing power, more self-reliance, a better balanced type of agriculture."

Referring to the thousands of farmers whose lands are still inadequately protected, the Chief said that this is a job not only for the SCS but for every agency and for every person interested in the welfare of the country. "It is an individual responsibility, a community responsibility, a national responsibility."

Reviewing the progress toward better land use during the past ten years, Dr. Bennett said that the most promising element in the whole situation is the rapid development and growth of the soil conservation districts.

SOUTHERN AGRICULTURAL WORKERS ASSN. RESOLVES
TO FURTHER SOIL CONSERVATION

The following resolution was adopted by the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers at its convention at Birmingham, Ala., on February 9:

"WHEREAS - The destruction of soil and soil resources by erosion is particularly and definitely prevalent in the southern states and action to combat this evil seems to be unanimous in efforts to stop these losses through the efforts of individual farmers as well as the formation of soil conservation districts, 126 of which are now operating on more than 100 million acres of southern farms, and

"WHEREAS - Other districts are in the process of formation to include nearly an additional 100 million acres with which there is doubt as to the financial ability of state and government agencies to cooperate,

"Now therefore be it resolved, that the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers, 41st Annual Convention, acknowledge that research, resident teaching, adult and youth education, and the action programs have rendered aid in the field of conservation. That, soil conservation is one of the fundamental problems facing Southern Agriculture; That, all agencies interested in a balanced agriculture in the South need to direct their cooperative efforts toward conservation of human and soil resources, and that, present authorization be accepted as minimum programs for the coming year."

CHIEF BROADCASTS ON FARM AND HOME PROGRAM

In discussing the role of conservation on the "Land Use in the United States" program on the National Farm and Home Hour on February 15, Dr. Bennett pointed out that what has been accomplished is only a beginning and that the main job is still ahead of us.

"However," continued the Chief, "if we can push ahead in accordance with present plans, by cooperation through soil conservation districts where the farmers, themselves, are leading the fight, we can gain control of the situation in some 15 or 20 years -- possibly in a somewhat shorter time."

LEGISLATION

A bill introduced by Mr. Terry (H. R. 112) authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to purchase lands within the boundaries of the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests, Ark., in order that they may be so managed as to minimize soil erosion and flood damage was passed by both House and Senate. This bill requires only the President's signature to become law.

Mr. Ramspeck's bill (H. R. 960) authorizes the President to cover into the classified civil service all positions in the Executive Departments or Independent Agencies of the Government, except the Works Progress Administration, subject to non-competitive Civil Service examinations and other requirements. Clauses also authorize extension of the Classification Act of 1923 to the field service and the setting up of a board of appeals to consider complaints on efficiency ratings. Having passed the House the bill is now being considered by the Senate Civil Service Committee.

By H. R. 7666, introduced by Mr. Voorhis, the Secretaries of Agriculture and War would be empowered to consider the conservation of water in connection with flood-control projects authorized under the Omnibus Flood Control Act of June 22, 1936. Up to 5% of funds available under this Act could be used for the conservation of water incidental to flood control. This bill was referred to the Committee on Flood Control.

The bill sponsored by Mrs. Norton (H. R. 7942), permitting the Director of the CCC to confer powers of a notary public on any employee paid from CCC funds, was referred to the Committee on Labor.

Duplicate bills introduced by Mr. O'Mahoney (S. 3136) and Mr. White of Idaho (H. R. 7952), to appropriate \$5,000,000 from the Reclamation Fund for expenditure by the Secretary of the Interior to construct small reservoirs, were referred to the Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation. These reservoirs would be located in states subject to the Federal reclamation laws and the cost per reservoir would be limited to \$50,000.

The bill introduced by Mr. Cochran (H. R. 8152), permitting Government agencies and departments to make purchases up to \$100 without advertising, was recommitted to the Committee on Expenditures in Executive Departments.

Mr. Case of South Dakota introduced H. R. 8400 to reduce rental, building, and equipment expenditures by granting to the Federal Works Administration control and custody of office space, furniture, and equipment. The measure was referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds.

Under the provisions of H. J. Res. 398, introduced by Mr. Doxey, the President or the Secretary of Agriculture would be empowered to spend up to \$60,000,000 for loans, grants and relief for needy farmers in distressed farm areas to meet emergency needs resulting from rains, flood, and drought. The bill was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. Neely introduced a bill (S. 282) providing that "State employees employed in connection with programs carried on with the assistance of the Federal Government be selected in accordance with a non-political Civil Service plan." It was referred to the Committee on Civil Service.

S. J. Res. 197, sponsored by Mr. Barbour, would authorize the President to call a national farm conference and to establish an advisory farm council. Representatives of farm agencies, agricultural colleges, industry, science, Government agencies, and Congress would

attend the conference to study farm problems and would set up a continuing advisory farm council of 15 members.

This council would plan a long-range program of farm aid giving particular study to (1) problems of production and production control; (2) problems of distribution and marketing aids; (3) inconsistencies in the present farm program; (4) irrigation costs; and (5) possible contraction of Federal agencies concerned with agricultural problems. This measure is now pending in the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

Duplicate bills introduced by Mr. Dempsey (H. R. 8562) and Mr. Thomason (H. R. 8564) would provide that whenever the expenditure of Federal money is contemplated for the construction or increase of storage reservoirs in the seventeen most westerly states, the Federal department in charge of the proposed works must send a report to all Federal departments having water utilization or control works in these states. Approval of all Federal agencies concerned is necessary before any Federal funds may be expended for such works. The bills were referred to the Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation.

Having passed the House and Senate, S. 2876 now requires only the President's signature to become law. It amends the Annual and Sick Leave Acts of 1936 so as to provide that only workdays shall be charged against leave.

SHORTAGE OF OCTOBER 1939 SOIL CONSERVATION

From the editorial office comes news that the issue of Soil Conservation for October 1939 is running low. Any extra copies which can be spared to bolster the supply will be greatly appreciated by the editorial office.

SPEECHES BY THE CHIEF

Dr. Bennett's tentative schedule of public addresses for March is:

March 12 (afternoon) Chicago Farmers Association
March 12 (evening) Business and Professional Women's
Club, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

REGIONAL BIOLOGISTS MEETING

A meeting of regional biologists will be held at Washington, D. C., March 12-16. The discussions will be broken down under the following broad headings:

1. Enlargement and reorientation of the biologists' function under the reorganized Soil Conservation Service.
2. Biological aspects of Land Utilization problems.
3. Cooperation with states under the Pittman-Robertson Act.
4. Methods of improving technical work.
5. Biological aspects of drainage.
6. Administrative problems and procedures.

Representatives of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Bureau of Fisheries, and Biological Survey as well as SCS keymen, will address the meeting.

The North American Wildlife Conference will be held in Washington March 18-20. Several SCS people will give papers on the afternoon devoted to wildlife management on agricultural lands.

PRINTERS' INK

"The study was initiated to better evaluate the effects of degree and length of land slope upon soil loss, and to serve as a guide for subsequent experimentation," writes Austin W. Zingg, of the engineering staff at Bethany, Mo., in a foreword to his article on "Degree and Length of Land Slope as It Affects Soil Loss in Runoff" in the February Agricultural Engineering.

"The results of research work by various individuals and organizations are grouped and analyzed as a whole to develop a rational equation for soil loss with respect to degree and horizontal length of slope," continues the author. "Results of an original experiment involving several plots with variations of slope and horizontal length are given. It is not assumed that the equation obtained represents absolute values for any specific soil or condition but is merely an average of available data on the subject."

The summary of an article by C. W. Thornthwaite on "Atmospheric Moisture in Relation to Ecological Problems" in Ecology for January says: "The problem of atmospheric moisture in relation to ecological problems is still far from being solved. When ecologists acquire a basic understanding of the process of moisture transfer between the land surface with its vegetation and

the atmosphere, the inadequacy of present measurements of atmospheric moisture and the futility of attempting to determine relationships between simple functions of atmospheric moisture and physiological functions of plants will become apparent."

A tribute to the agronomy program of R. Y. Bailey, regional agronomist for Region 2, appears in the February Country Gentleman in an article by J. Sidney Cates entitled "We Have Been Sending a Boy." At present a staff writer for Country Gentleman, Mr. Cates was in charge of the section of weed and tillage investigations of the Farm Management Bureau of the USDA several years ago.

Of the program for controlling erosion on critical slopes by the use of *Lespedeza sericea* and kudzu, the author says: "I have seen in literally thousands of places these Cinderella crops put to work through a sure-fire, perfected technique for their culture, doing a job that even I, who have long been their protagonist, look upon with amazement."

Incidentally, Mr. Bailey's bulletin on "Kudzu for Erosion Control in the Southeast" is expected off the press almost any day. It will be published as Farmers' Bulletin 1840.

An article entitled "Studying Sediment Loads in Natural Streams-- Highly Specialized Laboratory of Soil Conservation Service Now in Second Year of Operation on Enoree River, S. C." by Gilbert C. Dobson and Joe W. Johnson, respectively acting chief and assistant engineer, sedimentation division, appears in Civil Engineering for February.

The foreword states: "Quantitative measurements of bed load movement, in a natural stream large enough to be representative of rivers in general, are being made almost daily at the Enoree River Laboratory of the Soil Conservation Service. Of special interest because they are the first of their kind, these observations are but part of a comprehensive research program designed to throw light on various problems of sediment transportation, particularly as related to soil conservation work. Messrs. Dobson and Johnson here describe the laboratory, giving particular attention to the unique control structure from which the bed-load samples are drawn. They also describe the technique of the bed-load observations, and summarize briefly the other phases of the research program."

The February issue of Agricultural Leaders' Digest has an article by John T. Bregger, supervisor of a research project at Clemson, S. C., entitled "Contour Orchards Hold Both Soil and Water."

Mr. Bregger says in part, "Although contour orchard planting in conjunction with proper terracing might provide adequate erosion control, it is sound orchard management to also employ certain other practices, such as cover cropping, in the orchard for soil building. In older orchards where shading interferes with a good cover-crop growth, mulching has proven a satisfactory substitute."

The Jan.-Feb. issue of the Journal of Geology carries an article entitled "Armored Mud Balls -- Their Origin, Properties, and Role in Sedimentation" by Hugh Stevens Bell, of the sedimentation division. Mr. Bell is in charge of studies on underflows of silt-laden water in reservoirs at the cooperative laboratory of the California Institute of Technology.

The article contains a brief summary of literature on mud balls and a report of a "combined field and laboratory study in which an investigation of the size which mud balls may attain leads to conclusions that differ from those in the literature."

In an article entitled "Holland Builds a Masterpiece of Land Reclamation" in American Forests for February, W. C. Lowdermilk describes the reclamation of the Dutch in the Zuider Zee as "an unprecedented miracle in de-watering the ocean and transforming hundreds of thousands of acres of ocean floor into productive agricultural lands."

Dr. Lowdermilk continues, "The Dutch are indeed a great people, who can hold back the tides; filch agricultural lands from the bottom of the ocean; keep their rivers, laden with the silt and floods from two other countries, confined safely within dykes and flowing above the level of their agricultural lands."

"Hubam Clover Suits Blacklands" is the title of an article in the Farmer-Stockman for February 15, by G. A. Lehmann of the agronomy division stationed at Brady, Tex.

Hubam is described as an annual white sweet clover which is making a place for itself in the blacklands of Texas not only because of its erosion controlling qualities but also because as a feed crop it is higher in protein than alfalfa.

RESEEDING IN NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS
TO COST ONLY 55¢ PER ACRE

LU projects in Region 7 include plans for the reseeding of 474,944 acres of abandoned cropland. Under favorable conditions the cost of reseeding with crested wheat grass would amount to only 55¢ an acre, Wilkie Collins, regional agronomist, stated at the agronomists annual meeting at Fort Worth, Tex., the last week in January.

Five pounds of seed per acre would be required. Mr. Collins estimates that the actual labor would cost 30¢ an acre. By using seed harvested last year by the regional staff, at an approximate cost of 5¢ per lb., the total cost would be 55¢ per acre.

Only on land where sufficient cover has already been established to stabilize the soil could the seeding be done at this price. Four representatives of the Washington agronomy division attended the meeting: Messrs. Enlow, Semple, Tower, and Carter.

LOBBYING AND THE LAW

Soil Conservation Service employees will be interested in the following excerpt from the United States Code, Title 18, Section 201:

"No part of the money appropriated by any act shall, in the absence of express authorization by Congress, be used directly or indirectly to pay for any personal service, advertisement, telegram, telephone, letter, printed or written matter, or other device, intended or designed to influence in any manner a Member of Congress, to favor or oppose, by vote or otherwise, any legislation or appropriation by Congress, whether before or after the introduction of any bill or resolution proposing such legislation or appropriation; but this shall not prevent officers and employees of the United States from communicating to Members of Congress on the request of any Member or to Congress, through the proper official channels, requests for legislation or appropriations which they deem necessary for the efficient conduct of the public business.

"Any officer or employee of the United States who, after notice and hearing by the superior officer vested with the power of removing him, is found to have violated or attempted to violate this section, shall be removed by such superior officer from office or employment. Any officer or employee of the United States who violates or attempts to violate this section shall also be guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both."

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Leaflet No. 188. Verne E. Davison. "Protecting Field Borders."

This leaflet explains how farmers in the southeastern States may protect their field borders and at the same time encourage an increase of desirable wild animals on the farm.

USDA Tech. Bul. No. 639.

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no.
F. F. Barnes, SCS; C. J. Kraebel and R. S. LaMotte, Forest Service, "Effect of Accelerated Erosion on Silting in Morena Reservoir, San Diego County, Calif."

This report is the study of erosion and reservoir sedimentation in the Morena drainage basin of southern California which was made in 1935 by the SCS and the Forest Service.

"Land-Saving Plans for Conservation in the Pacific Southwest" is a profusely illustrated, offset, unnumbered publication originating in Region 10. The land-use problems confronting farmers are discussed and a well-planned conservation program outlined.

DECEMBER ACCIDENT FREQUENCY
LOWEST ON RECORD

Congratulations are in order for regional safety engineers as well as all personnel for their part in making December's accident frequency the best month on record for Soil Conservation Service.

With the integration of the LU projects and the BAEng. drainage camps, the combined SCS and CCC accident frequency per million man-hours dropped from 16.1 in September 1939 to 10.7 in December. The number of disabling injuries dropped from 169 in September to 109 in December, with an estimated reduction in cost of over \$12,000.

This record was made possible by the development of a program in which the Safety Committee is the cornerstone of accident prevention in any field operating unit, and the job foremen are trained to attain high quality production in as safe a manner as is possible.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING AND SCS

The February issue of Agricultural Engineering contains an article on W. W. McLaughlin, chief of the irrigation division, who was awarded the John Deere Gold Medal for 1940. Agricultural Engineering reprinted almost in its entirety T. B. Chambers' article on "Soil Conservation Engineering" which appeared in the January Soil Conservation.

Nebraska Sta. Res. Bul. 112 (1939) F. L. Duley and L. L. Kelly, "Effect of Soil Type, Slope, and Surface Conditions on Intake of Water" and unnumbered SCS publication, "An Outline of the Water Facilities Program" are reviewed in the Agricultural Engineering Digest Section.

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YOUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAYS --

Several days ago Your Washington Correspondent was talking with a friend, an employee of the Service, whom he had not seen for nearly a year. "How's the work going in your part of the country?" was a natural inquiry.

"Swell," the friend replied, beaming, "I've planned fifty farms myself. We are making plans right and left." He stopped there.

Your Washington Correspondent waited breathlessly to hear more. But nothing else was forthcoming. This fellow had planned fifty farms, and he was happy. That made me think.

Is planning enough? How much soil is saved by fifty first-rate farm plans? My guess is none--until those plans are put into operation.

Your Correspondent has no thought of being critical of the above friend, nor any other "planners" among us. But isn't it about time that all of us think of planning as a step toward conservation of the soil, rather than the ultimate goal?

Those fifty farm plans are not worth the paper they're written on--until they are translated into operations on the land.

There is no one who realizes the necessity of planning more than does Your Correspondent. Yet, isn't it possible that we may get so engrossed in planning that it becomes the end result rather than a preliminary move toward actual results?

I had hoped the friend mentioned above would answer the inquiry with "The work's going fine; I worked with fifty farmers this year in getting control measures established on their farms." He would have had

something there; some real and definite accomplishment--some soil saved. After all, that's the big job the Soil Conservation Service has to do--help farmers save soil. And that can only be done through physical accomplishment on the land.

Let's do our planning all right; but don't let a drawer full of plans create a mirage that keeps us from seeing through to the final accomplishment of holding the soil on the land where it belongs.

Something to think about! (See the Open Forum letters in this issue.)

SCIENTISTS TO EXAMINE SCS PHYSIOGRAPHIC DISCOVERIES

As previously reported in the Service News, discoveries of D. Hoyer Eargle and other members of the climatic and physiographic research division place an entirely new interpretation on topographic conditions and soil developments in the Piedmont and add considerable knowledge to the climatic and physiographic history of the region.

Because of the widespread interest of scientists in these discoveries C. W. Thornthwaite, head of the climatic and physiographic division, has arranged to hold a field conference in the southern Piedmont on April 1-4, with headquarters at Spartanburg, S. C. Topics to be considered are:

- "1. The mechanisms of land sculpture with special reference to the Piedmont.
 - A. The role of mass-movement.
 - B. The role of climate, as expressed through soil and vegetation, in the development of the Piedmont surface.
2. The analysis of minor land forms--the "unit drainage."
3. The role of mass-movement in soil formation and migration.
4. Criteria for recognition of mass-movement.
5. Interpretation of the soil-slope assemblage.
6. Localization of erosion hazard with respect to surface and soil.
7. Possibilities of correlation of filled Piedmont valleys with Pleistocene forms elsewhere, i.e., submarginal canyons, coastal plain terraces, pollen-bearing bogs of other areas."

H. H. Bennett, E. A. Norton, Stanley A. Cain, Paul B. Sears, W. R. Van Dersal, R. J. Russell, D. Hoyer Eargle, C. F. Stewart Sharpe, H. Andrew Ireland, and Otto E. Guthe, all of the SCS, will attend. The Carnegie Institute of Washington, U. S. Geological Survey, Forest Service, Bureau of Plant Industry, Smith College, University of South Carolina, and Princeton University will be represented.

CHIEF ADDRESSES CHICAGO AGRICULTURAL CLUB

"Today, seven nations which occupy more than half the world's inhabited surface are locked in a struggle unto death to hold or gain land and the trade that is derived from the land," said H. H. Bennett in an address delivered before the Agricultural Club of Chicago, on March 11.

"We have begun in this country a war of our own--a war against the enemy that is destroying our land," continued the Chief. "We are fighting the ravages of uncontrolled wind and water, of carelessness, and farming practices that contradict the laws of Nature, but somehow have managed to survive even though they were recognized as bad one hundred and fifty years ago."

In concluding Dr. Bennett pointed out that the protection of our standard of living and our civilization demands the cooperation of the Nation and that the defense of the soil must be considered an integral part of any long-range national defense program.

On March 28, Dr. Bennett will deliver an illustrated address on soil conservation and wildlife at the annual meeting of the Isaac Walton League at Chicago.

PROGRESS IN THE EVERGLADES

A tentative project work plan covering operations in the Florida Everglades for 1940 reached Washington early in February. The plan calls for construction of (a) three detention dikes, two on the west side and one on the east of the North New River Canal; (b) four control dams in the same canal; and (c) a canal dike along its east bank.

These dams and dikes will form a coordinated system for the control of canal levels and the diversion of surplus waters into the central part of the Everglades. The work is at present limited to the actual glades; none is to be undertaken on cultivated land.

The historically minded may be interested in a glance at the background of the Everglades situation.

In 1845, the year Florida came into the Union, the State Legislature requested the senators and representatives to impress upon Congress the importance of surveying the Everglades with a view to their reclamation. Two years later began the stream of dollars--eventually to reach a total of more than 22 millions--that came from Federal, State, and private funds to drain the Everglades.

Successive drainage plans were undertaken and by 1927 there were 432 miles of main canals open, making a total of 17 canals, in various stages of completion, varying in length from 3-1/2 to 78 miles. After development of the drainage canals came a medley of problems. Fires in the Everglades, both on the surface and underground, reached alarming proportions. Clouds of smoke rolled over coastal cities like Miami. The lowering of the water table caused intrusion of sea water into wells along the coast and soil subsidence up to 6 feet. Cracks 5 to 8 inches wide and two or more feet deep became more and more frequent. When the fire worked down into these cracks, nothing but heavy rains or flooding would extinguish it.

Last year, when the situation reached critical proportions, the need for raising the water table of the Everglades was recognized by Congress.

The Agricultural Appropriation Act for 1940 included in the SCS budget an item of \$75,000 for fire control and irrigation measures in the Everglades. The State of Florida appropriated a like sum, and created the Everglades Fire Control Commission to administer its spending.

An SCS committee, appointed to formulate policies for attacking the Everglades job, held a series of meetings in Florida last summer at which aspects of the problem were presented by the U. S. Army, U. S. Sugar Corporation, and local civic organizations.

Headquarters for the SCS project were established at Fort Lauderdale, with Kay Davis in charge. By Memo of Understanding between the SCS and the Everglades Fire Control Commission the Service undertook to prepare project plans, supervise construction work, and lend the necessary equipment; the Commission is to supply fuel, lubricants, and operators for the equipment and to keep it in repair.

Two surveying crews are already in the field. A plane is in the area taking aerial photographs, and work on the dikes and dams is just about ready to start.

COOPERATION WITH FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

The groundwork has been laid for closer cooperation between the Farm Security Administration and the Service in many parts of the country

as one phase of the effort to achieve more conservation in Department of Agriculture programs. In the past two months, field agreements have been executed between regional offices of the two agencies covering the States of Colorado (western part of State), Idaho, Kentucky, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

These agreements follow the principles suggested by assistant chief Dillon S. Myer on January 9, 1940. Several agreements were already in force covering certain types of cooperation between FSA and SCS in other areas.

J. Phil Campbell, assistant chief in charge of cooperative relations and information, emphasizes the opportunity of the Department to obtain a greater degree of conservation in its activities through close coordination of the work of these two action agencies. Judging by the progress being made, it is expected that a mechanism for coordination, in the form of a field agreement, will soon be established in practically every state.

LEGISLATION

The Appropriation Bill for 1941 has not yet been voted on by the Senate. It has, however, been recommended by the Senate Appropriations Committee with certain changes in the Bill as passed by the House (reported in the last issue of Service News). The changes that affect SCS are:

SCS regular appropriation--\$1,700,000 was added to the operations sub-appropriation.

The following amendment has been recommended as a proviso under the operations sub-appropriation: "Provided that any part of this appropriation allocated for the production or procurement of nursery stock by any Federal agency, or funds appropriated to any Federal agency for allocation to cooperating States for the production or procurement of nursery stock, shall remain available for expenditure for not more than three fiscal years."

Water facilities (total Departmental appropriation)--The \$500,000 recommended by the Budget Bureau was restored in its entirety.

Cooperative farm forestry (total Departmental appropriation)--The \$77,898 deleted by the House has been restored, although the funds are still consolidated to carry out the three items, cooperative farm forestry (Norris-Doxey Act), cooperative distribution of forest planning stock (Section 4 of the Clarke-McNary Act), and cooperative farm forestry extension work (Section 5 of the Clarke-McNary Act).

Land utilization and retirement of submarginal land (total Departmental appropriation)--The \$2,100,000 approved by the House remains unchanged.

Public No. 419, formerly S. 2876, amending the Annual and Sick Leave Acts of 1936 so as to provide that only workdays shall be charged against leave, was approved by the President on March 2. A memorandum will shortly be issued by the division of personnel interpreting the application of the Act to employees of the SCS.

H. R. 112, authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to purchase lands in the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests for control of erosion and flood damage, was signed by the President and becomes law as Public No. 427.

Among bills introduced since last issue of Service News were:

H. R. 8652, by Mr. Thill, to authorize a preliminary examination and survey of the Milwaukee River in Wisconsin for flood control, run-off and water-flow retardation, and soil erosion prevention.

S. 3531, by Mr. Chavez, providing for similar survey of the Mimbres River in New Mexico.

H. J. Res. 484, by Mr. Mitchell, to make Lincoln's birthday a legal holiday.

S. 3545, by Mr. Downey, to create a United States Civil Service Board of Appeals.

On March 1, the House passed H. R. 8663, the War Department civil appropriation bill, which contains an item of \$2,000,000 to be transferred to the USDA for flood control examinations, etc.

TRAINING COURSE FOR REGION 2

A discussion of erosion in the Southeastern Region was presented by T. S. Buie, regional conservator, before five groups of regional office employees during the week of February 19 in the first of a series of group conferences arranged to give regional office employees a complete picture of the work program of the Service.

A new subject is discussed each week by some representative of the regional office. Each group of employees has been assigned a certain day of the week to attend the conference and hear a one-hour discussion of the week's subject. In this way, all employees of the regional office will have an opportunity during the 12 weeks for which the conference series is scheduled to become more familiar with the principal phases of the Service program.

PRINTER'S INK

In an article entitled "The Origin of Kilbourne Hole, New Mexico," in the March issue of American Journal of Science, Parry Reiche offers the theory that Kilbourne Hole, heretofore described as a volcanic explosion crater, really originated by local subsidence. Dr. Reiche is regional geologist for Region 8.

In the February issue of Hawaii Farm and Home, N. E. Winters, in charge of SCS in Hawaii, summarizes the erosion and conservation situation in the United States. The article is entitled "Interest Grows in Saving Soil."

Dr. Winters states that the leading corporations in pineapple in Hawaii are studying carefully the best field methods known for the conservation of soil and water, and the control of excess water in pineapple production.

In addition, Dr. Winters says that "many small farmers are asking for cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service."

OPEN FORUM

Editor, Service News: The popularity and acceptance of soil conservation districts by farmers generally are going to be the main factors in their success.

Of first importance, in my opinion, is the man who is selected by SCS as district soil conservationist. He must be first a salesman and second a technician. More important than his knowledge of technical details will be his ability to sell the ideas he is supposed to advocate. His contact with the local governing body or county committee will make diplomacy, tact, and the ability to present himself all important. It might be wise to give this local body a hand in the selection, from several eligibles, of the man they desire as their district soil conservationist.

Second, and of equal importance, is the necessity of simplifying agreement procedure, so that farmers desiring to cooperate will not continually be being told that his desired agreement will be consummated pending soil survey, higher approval, completion of maps, or something similar. No one hates red tape as much as the average American farmer, and the less he sees of it in his local district the better his impression is going to be. Signed: L. R.

Editor, Service News: You've thrown Service News wide open to ideas, questions and discussions. So here goes with something that I've been thinking about a long time. It has to do with

reports. I am wondering if officials in the regional office and in the Washington office realize the amount of time that we field men put in doing paper work--answering questionnaires and compiling figures.

Now I know that it is both desirable and necessary to have reports on the work of the Service from the field units. But it seems that so many times we get calls for essentially the same information from different sources. Then there are the special reports; a wire comes in asking for some kind of data. We cancel appointments with farmers, cut out night meetings to pour over papers and statistics. Frankly, I think we're putting in valuable time doing much of this type of work, that could be better used getting soil conserved.

My point is, admitting there must be reports, why can't some of them be cut, consolidated and coordinated. Are all of them really necessary?

This thing was forcibly brought to my attention recently, when, after spending four days working up data called for by one of our offices, I happened to visit that office and found that my report, along with those of other field men, were in the files; most of them had not even been read. Upon inquiry, I was told that the information was valuable, but the technician didn't have time to work on it now. I miss my guess if all our files aren't crammed with reports of one kind or another that took many days to work up--and now they are dormant in the files. Isn't there some way to eliminate these things? We've got a job to do on the land, and paper work of filling out reports won't get it done.

Now, I'm raising this question in all seriousness in the hope that some way can be found to eliminate the necessity of spending so much time writing reports--especially these special reports with which we are almost constantly flooded. Signed: G. H. (A field man who wants to help farmers conserve their soil).

CONTRASTS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

In a letter to the Chief, J. H. Christ, regional conservator for Region 9, writes that on a recent trip through the Palouse he had never witnessed a more serious erosion situation than existed between Spokane and Colfax. He found that fields smoothed for fall plantings were thoroughly riddled; soil wash was extreme; deposition, excessive; and flooding from creek overflow, severe.

"However," continues Mr. Christ, "upon reaching Colfax, which is within the zone of influence of the CCC camps which had been located in that vicinity and the South Palouse Demonstration Project and Experiment Station, the situation was changed entirely. Only on rare

cases could an occasional rill be seen on the fall seedings, and creeks had been completely confined within their channels. We have all been wondering, and I think probably you had some reservations on this too, as to how effective the control program which was instituted to deal with the Palouse belt would be, but I am certainly most happy to report to you that it has, in my opinion, been able to meet this situation in a thorough and effective manner.

"I returned by way of Garfield, Oakesdale, Tekoa, Rockford and Mica. The same evidence prevailed there as on the other route, that shortly after leaving the area that had been close to the work units of the Service one again met the very severe conditions that I described as between Spokane and Colfax."

TYPE MAP OF BELTSVILLE WOODLAND

There are approximately 1760 acres of land in the Beltsville research center, of which about 1200 acres are forested. A type map and cruise of this woodland are being made by the divisions of forestry and hillculture in order to plan use of the tract so that it will serve the purposes of both divisions to the best advantage.

D. E. Hess and M. S. Spencer, foresters of Regions 1 and 2 respectively, have been in Washington for the past six weeks working on the map with members of the Washington hillculture and forestry divisions.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

"Rainfall Characteristics as Related to Soil Erosion," by David I. Blumenstock. Tech. Bull. 698.

A detailed analysis of meteorological data from nine sample stations throughout the United States, and an explanation of how such data can be applied to the problem of erosion control.

"Kudzu for Erosion Control in the Southeast," by R. Y. Bailey. Farmers' Bull. No. 1840.

In this 32-page publication Mr. Bailey tells why kudzu is proving to be "one of the best erosion-control plants" in the Southeast. The bulletin deals with the various erosion-control practices in which kudzu is employed, with its propagation, necessary cultural practices, and utilization.

THE CALF AND THE KUDZU

From his recent trip to the Southeastern Region, Al Smith of the Washington information division brought back an interesting tale of a calf. Al says a farmer, who lives about 10 miles from Spartanburg, told him the story with a perfectly straight face.

It seems that a calf fell into a large, stabilized gully last spring. Because of the vertical sides of the gully, the calf could not be extricated without the use of pulleys and apparatus which the farmer did not have at hand at the time. A miniature Niagara Falls prevented the escape of the animal via the mouth of the gully.

Last fall the farmer "got around" to investigating the fate of poor Bossy. He found as well-grown and well-fed an animal as if he had had the entire farm to roam. What did he live on? Why, the kudzu, of course, with which the gully was lined.